

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 25, 2019

The Honorable Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We thank you for your Administration's leadership in encouraging a fast, transparent, and fair resolution to Mr. Michael Phuong Minh Nguyen's detention in meetings with officials from the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. We write to you today to ask that you take additional action to secure Mr. Nguyen's release during your visit to Vietnam later this month. Given your successful track record of releasing U.S. citizens detained overseas in Egypt, Turkey, and North Korea, we hope you can capitalize on the opportunity to safely return Mr. Nguyen to his family in the United States.

As you may be aware, Mr. Nguyen was arrested on July 7, 2018 while visiting elderly relatives in Vietnam. He has since been held at the Phan Dang Luu Detention Center in Ho Chi Minh City. Although he has not been charged with a crime, the Vietnamese government has confirmed that they are investigating Mr. Nguyen for allegedly violating Article 109 of Vietnam's Penal Code, engaging in activity against the government. Article 109 is often used by Vietnamese officials in arbitrary arrests and carries a maximum punishment of death.

Mr. Nguyen is a loving husband and father, a small business owner, and an active member of his community and church. As the primary caregiver for his four young daughters, his prolonged absence has imposed extreme hardship and emotional trauma on his family.

Mr. Nguyen is a law-abiding American citizen with no criminal record in the United States. His continued imprisonment raises significant concerns, particularly since the Vietnamese government has not yet formally charged Mr. Nguyen or released any evidence justifying his arrest. It is unacceptable that Mr. Nguyen, or any American citizen, be detained indefinitely without formal charge and under unsubstantiated circumstances.

As elected officials, it our responsibility to protect the American people both at home and abroad. We urge you to prioritize the swift and fair resolution of Mr. Nguyen's case, and his safe return home to the United States, during your visit to Vietnam.

Sincerely,



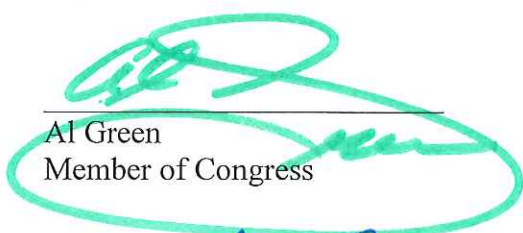
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



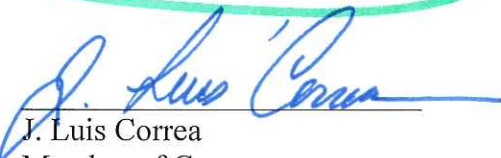
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



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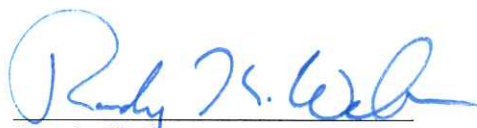
Al Green
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J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



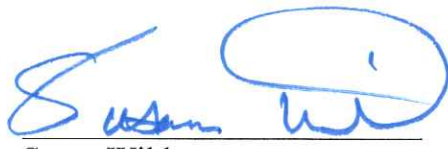
Eliot L. Engel
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Randy Weber
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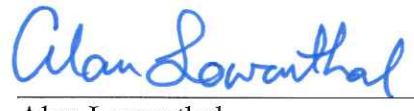
Zoe Lofgren
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Susan Wild
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Mike Levin
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Alan Lowenthal
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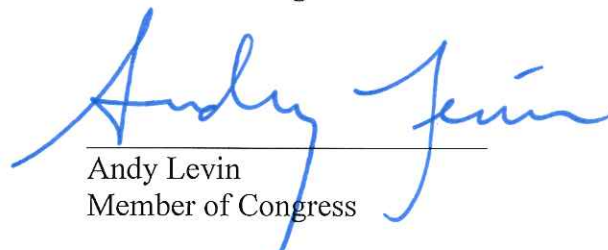
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